

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJECT: CHINA HIGHLIGHTS, NO. 21

1. THIRD PLENUM CONCLUDES

PEKING CONVENED THE THIRD PLENUM OF ITS TENTH PARTY CONGRESS (JULY 16-21) AND FORMALLY RATIFIED THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA KUO-FENG AS MAO'S SUCCESSOR, RESTORED TENG HSIAO-PING TO HIS POSTS PRIOR TO THE TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT OF APRIL, 1976, EXPELLED THE "GANG OF FOUR" FROM THE PARTY AND CALLED FOR THE CONVENING OF THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. THE COMMUNIQUE, OFFICIALLY ADOPTED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, PRESENTED A FORMAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE-AGREED DOCUMENT WHICH GREATLY STRENGTHENED THE RESTORED TENG HSIAO-PING. THE LEADERSHIP BEFORE THE ELEVENTH

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CONGRESS, HOWEVER, IS A CLEAR TRIUMVIRATE WITH POWER RESTING IN THE HANDS OF HUA, VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING, AND TENG. WHILE THE NEW CONGRESS WILL EXPAND THE POLITBURO RANKS AND ADD TO THE LIST OF PARTY VICE CHAIRMEN/STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THIS TRIO WILL LIKELY REMAIN CHINA'S FOCUS OF POWER.

2. IMPLICATIONS OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S RETURN

TENG HSIAO-PING'S RESTORATION HAS BEEN GREETED WITH CONSIDERABLE ACCLAIM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS POPULAR EXPECTATIONS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN GENERAL LIVELIHOOD STILL REMAIN LINKED TO TENG. TO THIS EXTENT, THE HUA REGIME MAY TEMPORARILY FIND THE HEAT SOMEWHAT LESSENERED ON THE ISSUE OF WAGES AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS. THE REGIME WILL ALSO BENEFIT HAVING TENG AROUND TO TAKE XSOME OF THE BLAME IF THE CENTER STILL HAS TO PROCRASTINATE ON THESE ISSUES. TENG'S RETURN BEFORE THE ELEVENTH CONGRESS LIKELY HEADLINES A MOVE AT THE CONGRESS TO BRING IN LARGE NUMBERS OF REHABILITATED CULTURAL REVOLUTION PURGEES WHO HAVE RETURNED TO POSITIONS OF POWER WITH TENG SINCE THE 1973 PARTY CONGRESS. THIS OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN TENG'S BACKING IN THE LEADERSHIP RANKS ALSO STRENGTHENS THE REGIME'S COMMITMENT OT PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHIES. WHILE TENG HAS YET TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CHINESE MASSES AND HAS NOT MET WITH ANY CURRENT VISITORS TO CHINA, IT IS EXPECTED THAT AS CHIEF OF THE PLA GENERAL STAFF HE WILL HAVE A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN THE UPCOMING PLA FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

3. 50TH ARMY DAY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES HAVE BEGUN THROUGHOUT CHINA
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FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PLA ON AUGUST 1. AN ARMY THEATRICAL FESTIVAL OPENED IN PEKING ON JULY 15, ATTENDED BY HIGH-RANKING CENTRAL ARMY LEADERS. RALLIES HAVE BEEN HELD IN SEVERAL PROVINCES TO ORGANIZE SUPPORT-THE-ARMY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL CELEBRATIONS. BROADCAST AND NEWSPAPER THEMES HAVE INCLUDED CONSIDERABLE EULOGIZING OF "PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARIES OF THE OLDER GENERATION", ESPECIALLY NANCHANG UPRISING LEADERS CHU TEH AND HO LUNG. ATTENTION HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON MILITARY MODERNIZATION, STUDY OF THE "TEN SHOULDLS AND SHOULDN'TS" AND EMULATION OF THE "HARDBONE SIXTH COMPANY." ALTHOUGH RECENT ARTICLES HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT THE NANCHANG UPRISING WAS "STAGED UNDER GUIDANCE OF MAO TSE-TUNG'S THOUGHT", ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON CHOU EN-LAI, CHU TEH AND OTHERS WHO ACTUALLY WERE PRESENT AT NANCHANG IN 1927. A SUBTLE FORM OF DE-MAOIZATION WAS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST LINE OF A RECENT "LIBERATION ARMY DAILY" ARTICLE, WHICH STATED THAT THE ARMY HAD BEEN FOUNDED, NURTURED AND COMMANDED BY MAO "AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY."

4. TENG HSIAO-PING AND THE SECRETARY'S VISIT

A "NEW EVENING POST" COMMENTARY ON JULY 27 LIGHT-HEARTEDLY DENIED WESTERN SPECULATION THAT TENG'S REHABILITATION WAS TIMED SO AS TO COINCIDE WITH THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP. THE PAPER STATES TENG'S RETURN WAS DECIDED LONG AGO, AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S DATES FROM NOVEMBER TO AUGUST COULD BE SEEN AS A U.S. ATTEMPT TO SYNCHRONIZE THE VISIT WITH EVENTS IN CHINA. THE EDITOR CONCLUDES THAT NEITHER IS THE CASE, BUT THAT TENG'S "REINSTATEMENT" ADDS WEIGHT TO SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP SINCE THE TWO MEN KNOW EACH OTHER AND WILL BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN.

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